

I am shocked by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and of the need for a fairness doctrine for companies that use the public airwaves free of charge. The public interest is not served when one company can force all of their local affiliates to air biased programming with no requirement to show alternative views.

Sinclair is obligated by law to serve the public interest. The public interest is not served by such clear corporate bias. Nor is it served by programs that serve distant corporate interests rather than the needs of people in their own communities. It is most important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.